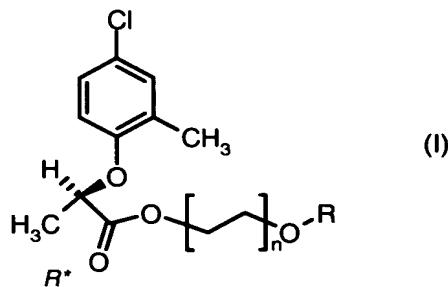


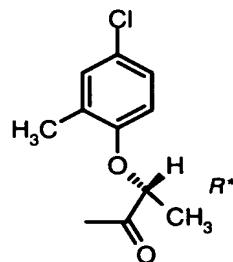
We claim:

1. Enantiomerically enriched R-(+)-2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)propionic acid polyethylene glycol esters of the general formula (I) and any of their mixtures with one another,



where

R represents H or a radical of the formula



10

and

n represents an integer between 1 and 20 and

R* denotes the R configuration of the chiral carbon atom.

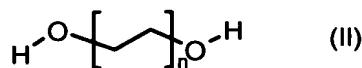
15

2. Enantiomerically enriched compounds as claimed in claim 1 or their mixtures with one another, wherein, in formula (I), n is an integer between 2 and 10.

20 3. A mixture comprising 0 to 80% by weight of at least two enantiomerically enriched compounds of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

total of the individual components of the formula (I) adds up to 100% by weight.

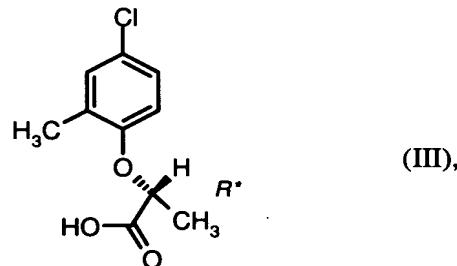
4. A method for the preparation of an enantiomerically enriched R-(+)-2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)propionic acid polyethylene glycol ester of the general formula (I) or mixtures thereof with one another as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one polyethylene glycol of the general formula (II)



10 where

n represents a number between 1 and 20

15 is heated together with enantiomerically enriched R-(+)-2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)propionic acid of the formula



if appropriate in the presence of one or more catalysts and the water of reaction formed is distilled off.

20 5. The use of enantiomerically enriched polyethylene glycol esters of R-(+)-2-(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy)propionic acid of the general formula (I) as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3 for the protection of industrial materials against root penetration thereto and therethrough.

6. The use as claimed in claim 5, wherein the industrial materials are buildings, building materials and building auxiliaries.
7. A composition comprising enantiomerically enriched compounds of the formula (I) as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3 and at least one solvent or diluent and, if appropriate, further processing auxiliaries, fillers and additives.
8. A method for the protection of industrial materials against root penetration thereinto and therethrough, which comprises enantiomerically enriched compounds of the formula (I) as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3 being either applied directly to the industrial material to be protected, or mixed therewith, or the industrial material being treated with a composition as claimed in claim 7.
9. An industrial material comprising enantiomerically enriched compound of the formula (I) as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3.
10. The use of a composition as claimed in claim 7 for the protection of industrial materials against root penetration thereinto and therethrough.